



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
February 2, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, and Gina Joyce

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Deirdre Kvale (with prior notice)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence, and no written comments were received to be read aloud by staff.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Update on Hiring Public Works Maintenance Worker Position

Public Works Director Diercks indicated that the City currently has one Maintenance Worker titled position that encompasses all the Public Works staff which is a very skilled position that takes a lot of training and hands-on experience. He and City Administrator Weske have been discussing the possibility of downgrading the position and breaking it into initially a Maintenance Worker I position, which would be an entry level position. He explained that the current Maintenance Worker position would effectively be considered a higher-level Maintenance Worker II position. He gave an overview of the duties for the Maintenance I and II position levels and reviewed a potential corresponding wage scenario. He stated that the idea to hire for a Maintenance Worker I position and have the ability to work their way up to the Maintenance Worker II position level over a period of a few years. He noted that he would really like to see this happen and he believes the multiple position levels will give the new employee some incentive to work towards a promotion within two years.

Council member Dyvik asked what the wage would be for the Maintenance Worker II position.

Diercks clarified that the Maintenance Worker II position wage would remain as it is currently established for the experienced Maintenance Worker position; however, the Maintenance Worker I position would be at a lower salary range scale. Downgrading the position by creating a Maintenance Worker I hiring level will probably save the City about \$10,000/year in wages before the employee is promoted up to the Maintenance Worker II position level.

Mayor Miner asked how the City would advertise for this position.

Diercks stated that in the past they have advertised in the local newspaper and on the League of Minnesota Cities website.

City Clerk Moeller noted that they would also advertise it on the City's website and have also utilized the City Listserv and posted the position through Minnesota Rural Water.

Council member Dyvik asked how long Mr. Belland was with the City and asked why he left.

Diercks responded that Mr. Belland was with the City for 19 months before he resigned. He explained that Mike had taken a position closer to his home with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Moeller added that Mr. Belland would be the third generation in his family to be employed by the MnDNR.

The Council discussed staffing in Public Works and when the current staff may be interested in retiring.

Diercks noted the proposed change establishing both Maintenance Worker I and II positions will give the City flexibility to hire either a Maintenance Worker I or II depending on what type of response they get to the advertisement.

The Council discussed goal setting and the annual review process for this position.

Moeller noted that there will be an upcoming agenda item on the February 16, 2021 meeting to establish a date for a Council goal setting work session.

Update and Discussion on Draft (Partial) Amendments to Repeal/Replace City Code Chapter 34 – Traffic and Vehicles

Moeller explained that she had begun tackling an update of City Code Chapter 34 in order to include some of the things important to the Council and also provide more consistency with Wayzata Police and their ordinances related to traffic and vehicles. She noted that the draft document has not been reviewed by City Attorney Thames yet and explained that she has two more sections that she is still working through - Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles; and Skateboards and Roller Blades. She stated that one of her priorities was to simplify the language so it is easier to understand. She reviewed some of the things that remained the same and highlighted some of the changes from current code. She discussed some of the nuances of motorized vehicles and gave examples of motorized wheelchairs. She noted that the language she is proposing is similar to Wayzata but with exemptions recognizing ADA motorized mobility devices and electric bicycles.

Council member Dyvik asked about the regulations in relation to the bike trail.

Council member Feldmann noted that he had observed a developer/contractor truck on the bike trail every few weeks watering the trees. He asked if a bike trail was essentially considered a sidewalk.

Moeller stated that is a good question and asked the Council what they thought about Wurzer Trail being treated the same as a sidewalk.

Council member Miner suggested that the City try to "future proof" the document as much as possible.

Moeller noted that if the City treated the trails more like sidewalks and kept them more pedestrian, bicycle friendly, and non-motorized the text could be tweaked to state "vehicles on paths and sidewalks".

Council member Dyvik stated that he distinguishes a difference between those things.

The Council discussed allowing bicycles, including electric bicycles, on paths and trails.

Moeller noted that she will research segways and other small motorized items and find a way to distinguish between those items and ones that are not wanted on sidewalks.

Diercks asked how the City would handle the sidewalk from Brown Road on the south side of Wayzata Boulevard W all the way to Willow Drive.

Council member Dyvik stated that portion is a sidewalk but on the north side of Wayzata Boulevard it is a trail.

The Council discussed sidewalks, trails, golf carts, and motorized bicycles.

Moeller indicated that she will take some more time to look into vehicles on sidewalks versus vehicles on paths and attempt to think outside the box on some of the fun items. She stated that she may be able to find some examples of other codes that have addressed this issue in a more contemporary fashion.

Mayor Miner commented that he had worked on the University of Minnesota ordinances and noted that he had just sent those to Moeller for reference. Diercks asked Mayor Miner to send a copy of the University of Minnesota ordinances to him as well.

Council member Dyvik asked if the trail belonged to Hennepin County and not the City.

Diercks stated that the City is maintaining them so he assumes that means the City owns them.

City Administrator Weske stated that he believes the County built the trails, but then turned them over to the City to maintain and replace them in the future.

Council member Feldmann asked about vehicles such as a moving truck for Section 34-4 (2) and asked if that would need a permit or if it would be exempt.

Moeller responded that she does not think that moving trucks would exempt because exempted vehicles are City vehicles, emergency vehicles, and refuse collection vehicles. She moved on to review portions of the draft parking regulations in Section 34-32 pertaining to establishing no parking zones; and 34-38 regarding temporary parking restrictions.

The Council discussed permit parking and difficulties in enforcing temporary parking restrictions. They discussed the possibility of addressing the temporary parking restrictions through special event permit conditions of approval as well.

Moeller commented that after further discussion and consultation, staff is not recommending that the City allow on-street overnight parking because there are so few streets that staff would feel comfortable allowing this type of parking. Staff recommends the current 'no on-street overnight parking' policy remain unchanged.

The Council agreed that on-street overnight parking should not be allowed and discussed ways to make short term exceptions for out-of-town company or circumstances such as getting their driveway resurfaced.

Council and staff also discussed draft Sections 34-62 and 34-63 pertaining to boat and trailer parking. Moeller clarified that the language in draft Section 34-63 is intended to allow the Council to further establish other 'no boat and trailer' parking areas as it deems necessary in future.

Moeller indicated that she will continue working on this document and bring it back to the Council at a future date.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator